

AFEHRI File 19-5-1-19

Research Materials/Source Documents  
AWARDS & DECORATIONS

FILE TITLE: Air Force Cross Recipient: TSgt Leroy M. Wright

Reviewed by:

AFEHRI Representative G.R. Akin date 12 Dec 97

EPC Representative Joe. Akin date 16 Dec 97

Scanner Operator Sandy Ingram date 16 Dec 97

APPROVED BY: Gary R. Akin  
GARY R. AKIN, CMSgt, USAF  
Director  
Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute

**.. Technical Sergeant Leroy M. Wright.** On 21 November 1970, the United States conducted a rescue mission at the Son Tay POW Camp in which Sgt Wright, a helicopter mechanic, took part. At the prison compound, enemy fire forced Sgt Wright's helicopter to make a rough landing, and he injured his leg. Despite his injury and the danger of the helicopter exploding, he let everyone else exit the aircraft before him. Joining the rescue mission, he expertly used his weapon to help Army combat troops advance to their target. Realizing that requesting assistance could jeopardize the mission, Sgt Wright, suffering intense pain, returned to the recovery area on his own. He was the only enlisted member who participated in this rescue mission to receive the Air Force Cross.